

Farm Bill passes House. By Anna Gawel, *Devex*, 1 May 2026

Smooth move?

We continue to bring you the latest in the congressional back-and-forth over U.S. food aid because the outcome stands to make a lifesaving difference in a world where hundreds of millions are going hungry. Or it stands to let those millions down.

The U.S. House of Representatives yesterday **passed the hotly contested Farm Bill**, [codifying the temporary transfer of Food for Peace](#) — the country’s \$1.2 billion flagship global hunger program — from [USAID](#), then the [State Department](#), and now over to the [U.S. Department of Agriculture](#).

It also **raises the minimum spend on U.S.-grown agricultural commodities to 50%** of the program’s budget — a lucrative win for American farmers — and earmarks \$200 million for ready-to-use therapeutic foods, a nutrient-packed peanut butter-based paste used to treat severely malnourished children, writes my colleague Elissa Miolene, who’s been diligently tracking hours and hours of testimony.

But it’s not a done deal yet — this is U.S. politics, after all.

The bill needs to be debated in the Senate before landing on the president’s desk for his big black Sharpie signature. Still, it **brings Food for Peace one step closer to a new, more permanent home** — though the move from its original home, USAID, carries heavy baggage.

“Food for Peace is already a program that is complicated to administer, and there are a lot of requirements, a lot of directives, and a lot of specific targets that they have to hit,” says **Emily Byers** of [Save the Children US](#).

For some lawmakers, though, the move was something they’d long been pushing for: Republican **Sen. Jerry Moran** from Kansas, for example, had been advocating for Food for Peace’s transfer since before USAID’s collapse.

But in recent days, several other lawmakers **tried to block the move**. Florida Republican **Rep. Brian Mast** introduced an amendment to [shift Food for Peace’s authority](#) to President Donald Trump, while **Rep. Gregory Meeks** of New York introduced an amendment that would strike the transfer to USDA entirely.

Both failed to gain enough traction, and on Wednesday, the bill plodded forward with USDA’s authorities intact.

Read: [House locks Food for Peace into USDA with 50% commodity requirement](#)